

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

03 JAN 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PI5523PC00

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

International filing date (day/month/year)

Priority date (day/month/year)

PCT/IB04/03184

30 September 2004 (30.09.2004)

02 October 2003 (02.10.2003)

Applicant

WATERLEAF LIMITED

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the *PCT Applicant's Guide*.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed invention is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

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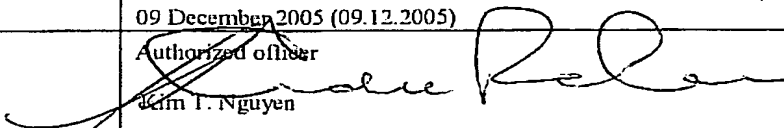
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P15523PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416																								
International application No. PCT/IB04/03184	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 30 September 2004 (30.09.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 02 October 2003 (02.10.2003)																									
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): A63F 13/00 and US Cl.: 463/42																											
Applicant WATERLEAF LIMITED																											
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>5</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 20%;">Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand 22 August 2005 (22.08.2005)		Date of completion of this report 09 December 2005 (09.12.2005)																									
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer  Kim T. Nguyen Telephone No. (703)308-1148																									

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/IB04/03184

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed.
- ☐ a translation of the international application into English, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-13 as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages NONE as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages* 14-18 received by this Authority on 22 August 2005
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1/2-2/2 as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☒ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, Nos. 23-34
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/IB04/03184**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-22</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-22</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-22</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-22 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Rowe (US 2003/0162594).

Rowe discloses a gaming system comprising a gaming server 16 (Fig. 1); a plurality of gaming stations 12 (Fig. 1); and a communication network for providing communication between the gaming server and the player stations. The gaming server records player data relating to the wager placed by the player, amount won, etc. for each player playing a game of chance (Fig. 3c; paragraphs 0077-0081).

Claims 1-22 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus meet industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

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AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 MAR 2006

5 Claims

1. A gaming system, comprising:

a gaming server; and

10 a communication network capable of providing communication between the gaming server and each one of a plurality of player stations remote from the gaming server, each player station having a unique identification code and being capable of rendering to a corresponding player a simulation of at least one game of chance and enabling the
15 player to place a wager on a turn of the at least one game of chance characterised in that

the gaming server records transaction data relating to each wager placed by any player on each turn of the at least one game of chance, the transaction data including at least the size of the wager, the time
20 and date of the wager, an outcome of the turn of the game of chance, a geographic location of the player station on which the wager was placed by the player, and a status of the wager, the status being successful if the outcome of the turn of the game is a favourable outcome, and the status being unsuccessful if the outcome of the turn
25 of the game is not a favourable outcome.

2. A gaming system as claimed in claim 1 which includes a player station database associated with the gaming server, the geographic location of each player station being stored in the database and the database
30 being indexed according to the unique identification codes of the plurality of player stations.

3. A gaming system as claimed in claim 2 in which the gaming server derives the geographic location of any player station from the player station database by means of the unique identification code of that
35 player station as an index.

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- 5 4. A gaming system as claimed in claim 1 in which the gaming server maintains a register of all players who utilise the gaming system to play the at least one game of chance and stores, for each player in the register, a player identity and a corresponding unique code of at least one player identification token.
- 10 5. A gaming system as claimed in claim 4 in which the gaming server identifies any player prior to commencement of play of the at least one game of chance, and in which the transaction data relating to any wager includes an identity of the player who placed that wager.
- 15 6. A gaming system as claimed in claim 5 that includes an administration facility communicable with the gaming server by means of the communication network, the administration facility being configurable to determine at least one of:
 - 20 (a) a total gross win or loss for each individual player in the register;
 - (b) a total gross win or loss for each one of the plurality of player stations of the gaming system;
 - (c) a gross win or loss for all player stations whose geographic location fall within a selectable geographical area; and
 - 25 (d) a total gross win or loss for all the player stations together.
- 30 7. A gaming system as claimed in claim 6 in which the administration facility accumulates, in an accumulation account, a proportion of all wagers placed by any player on any of the plurality of player stations whose geographic location falls within a selectable geographic area.
- 35 8. A gaming system as claimed in claim 7 in which the administration facility reimburses, out of the contents of the accumulation account, a community in the selectable geographical area in respect of the gross loss at all player stations whose geographic location fall within the selectable geographic area.

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5 9. A gaming system as claimed in claim 7 in which the administration facility reimburses the community in respect of a total of all wagers placed at any player station whose geographic location falls within the selectable geographic area.

10 10. A gaming system as claimed in claim 2 in which any player station accepts wagers in one of a number of different standard wager denominations, each one of the number of different standard wager denominations being a predetermined integral or fractional number of units of credit.

15 11. A gaming system as claimed in claim 10 in which the player station database stores, for each player station, a corresponding standard wager denomination for wagers placed by a player at that player station, the wager denomination of any particular player station being
20 derivable from the player station database by means of the unique identification code of that player station as an index.

25 12. A method of operation of a gaming system, comprising the steps of: providing a gaming server and a communication network capable of providing communication between the gaming server and each one of a plurality of player stations remote from the gaming server; rendering to a player, on a player station, a simulation of at least one game of chance;
30 enabling the player to place a wager on the turn of the at least one game of chance;
determining an outcome of the turn of the at least one game of chance; and
35 recording transaction data relating to each wager placed by the player on the turn of the at least one game of chance, the transaction data including at least the size of the wager, the time and date of the wager, an outcome of the turn of the game of chance, a geographic location of the player station on which the wager was placed by the player, and a status of the wager, the status being successful if the outcome of the

5 turn of the game is a favourable outcome, and the status being unsuccessful if the outcome of the turn of the game is not a favourable outcome..

10 13.A method as claimed in claim 12 in which a geographic location of each player station is stored in a player station database, the player station database being indexed according to the unique identification codes of the plurality of player stations.

15 14.A method as claimed in claim 13 in which the geographic location of any player station is derived from the player station database by means of the unique identification code of that player station as an index.

20 15.A method as claimed in claim 12 that includes a further step of maintaining a register of all players who utilise the gaming system to play the at least one game of chance and, for each player in the register, a corresponding player identity and a corresponding unique code of at least one player identification token.

25 16.A method as claimed in claim 15 that includes a further step of identifying a player before commencing play of the at least one game of chance, and including an identity of the player who placed a wager in the transaction data relating to that wager.

30 17.A method as claimed in claim 16 that includes a step of determining at least one of:

- 35 (a) a total gross win or loss for each individual player in the registry;
(b) a total gross win or loss for each one of the plurality of player stations of the gaming system;
(c) a gross win or loss for all player stations whose geographic location fall within a selected geographical area; and
(d) a total gross win or loss for all the player stations together.

- 5 18.A method as claimed in claim 17 in which a proportion of all wagers placed by any player on any one of the plurality of player stations whose geographic location falls within a selected geographic area is accumulated in an accumulation account.
- 10 19.A method as claimed in claim 17 in which a community in the selected geographic area is reimbursed, out of the contents of the accumulation account, in respect of the gross loss at all player stations whose geographic location fall within the selected geographic area.
- 15 20.A method as claimed In claim 17 in which a community In the selected geographic area is reimbursed, out of the contents of the accumulation account, In respect of a total of all wagers placed at any player station whose geographic location falls within the selected geographic area.
- 20 21.A method as claimed in claim 13 in which wagers are accepted in one of a number of different denominations, each one of the number of different denominations being a number of predetermined integral or fractional number of units of credit.
- 25 22.A method as claimed in claim 21 that includes a step of storing in the player station database, for each player station, a corresponding denomination for wagers accepted at that player station, and deriving the wager denomination of any particular player station from the player station database by means of the unique identification code of that
- 30 player station as an index.